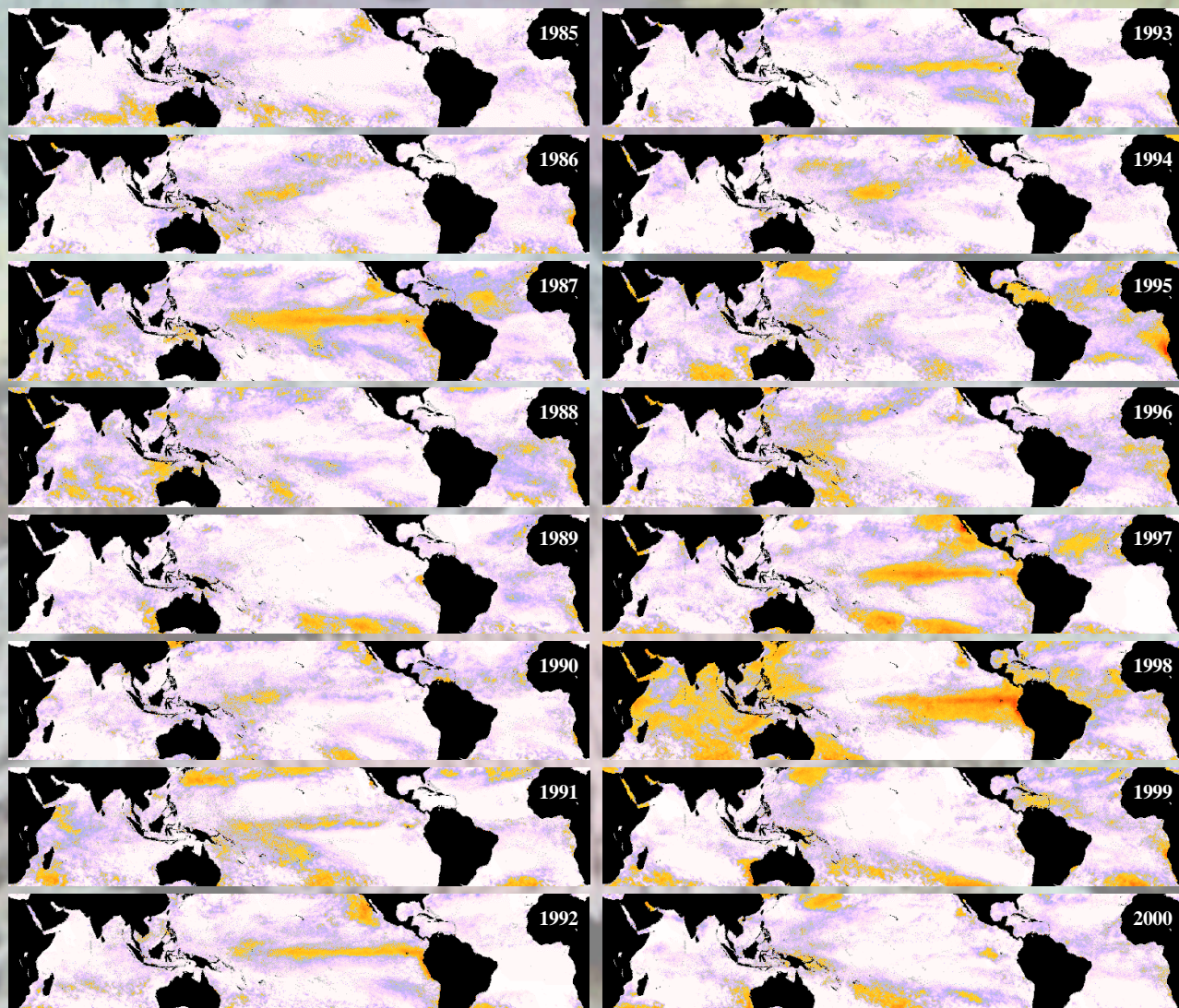


Satellite Annual Coral Bleaching HotSpot Charts (1985 - 2000)

Satellite retrospective annual composite monthly mean coral bleaching “HotSpot” charts document the spatial distribution, pattern and magnitude of the thermal stresses that may have contributed to coral bleaching in the past. A coral bleaching HotSpot is defined as the sea surface temperature (SST) anomaly, above a “static” coral bleaching threshold SST climatology. These HotSpot charts were derived from the NOAA/NASA 9-km satellite AVHRR (Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer) Oceans Pathfinder SST dataset, the most refined available. HotSpot charts are proving to be highly successful in detecting coral bleaching over large spatial scales.

Incidences of coral bleaching were influenced by unprecedented SST anomalies during 1998, due to a severe El Niño event as shown by the HotSpot chart (see below). This bleaching event was the most extensive in the modern record.



http://orbit-net.nesdis.noaa.gov/orad/coral_bleaching_index.html

